

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 289523

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM NAIROBI DATED DECEMBER 2, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 15679

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SHUM, UG, US, KE

SUBJECT: US POLICY TOWARD UGANDA

REFS: (A) STATE 287498, (B) STATE 287004

1. I APPRECIATE OUR GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO GIVE EMPHASIS TO
ITS CONDEMNATION OF THE AMIN GOVERNMENT'S HISTORY OF GROSS
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WE SHOULD
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DISTANCE OURSELVES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM THE AMIN REGIME AND
AVOID ALL APPEARANCE OF COOPERATION WITH IT. I FEEL VERY
STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF ANY ANTI-
AMIN MEASURES WE MAY TAKE MUST BE FULLY COMMENSURATE WITH THE
POTENTIAL RISKS THAT MAY BE THEREBY PRODUCED FOR THE AMERICAN
CITIZENS RESIDENT IN UGANDA. I WOULD HOPE, FURTHER, THAT ALL
ANTI-AMIN ACTIONS WE MAY TAKE WILL HAVE AN UNCHALLENGEABLE

BASIS IN LAW.

2. I HAVE SOME APPREHENSION THAT THE ACTIONS REPORTED IN THE TWO CITED CABLES COULD PROVOKE AMIN'S RETALIATION ON AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA. THIS WORRY OVER POSSIBLE CAPRICIOUS AND VINDICTIVE REACTIONS ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT AMIN I EARLIER REPORTED IS ALSO SHARED BY THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA. MOREOVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME HOW THE DENIAL OF FAA CERTIFICATION WIL MATERIALLY HURT AMIN, SINCE, PRESUMABLY, FAA CERTIFICATION IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF HELICOPTERS IN UGANDA.

3. PARA. 4 OF REFTTEL (A) RECOGNIZES THE POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATION AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF DEPARTMENT'S CONTINGENCY PLANNING AS TO US REACTION IF SUCH RETALIATORY ACTIN IS, IN FACT, TAKEN.

4. FOR PURPOSES ANSWERING LOCAL INQUIRIES, I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HAVING A COPY OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S DETERMINATION THAT SECTION 212(D)(27) OF THE ACT COVERS EXCLUSIONS OF APPLICANTS BECAUSE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS, SINCE THE NOTES TO 22 CFR 41.91(A)(27) IN 9 FAM VOL II DO NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE TO THIS CLASS OF APPLICANT. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE THE LEGAL CITATION ON WHICH THE REFUSAL OF THE FAA CERTIFICATIONS WAS BASED.
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5. IN APPROACHING THE UGANDA PROBLEM, I DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR OVERLY LEGALISTIC. BUT I DO FEEL THAT I MUST BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR'S IS A GOVERNMENT OF LAW AND THAT WE ARE USING FULLY LEGITIMATE MEANS TO ACHIEVE OUR WHOLLY WORTHWHILE ENDS.

6. AGAIN FOR PURPOSES OF LOCAL DISCUSSION, I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RATIONALE FOR NOT BREAKING RELATIONS WITH AMIN GOVERNMENT, AN ACTION WHICH WOULD OBIVATE MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WE NOW FACE.
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